

# Sikaritai language

**Sikaritai** (Sikwari) is a Lakes Plain language of Papua, Indonesia. It is named after *Sikari* village in Rafaer District, Mamberamo Raya Regency. Alternate names are *Aikwakai*, *Araikurioko*, *Ati*, *Tori*, *Tori Aikwakai*.

It is spoken in Haya, Iri, and Sikari villages.<sup>[3]</sup>

Sikaritai, Obokuitai, and Eritai constitute a dialect cluster.

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## Phonology

The following discussion is based on Martin (1991).<sup>[4]</sup>

### Consonants

	Labial	Coronal	Velar
Stop	<span><span><span><span></span></span><u>b</u></span></span>	<span><span><span><span></span></span><u>t</u></span> <span><span><span><span></span></span><u>d</u></span></span></span>	<span><span><span><span></span></span><u>k</u></span> <span><span><span><span></span></span><u>k</u><sup>w</sup></span></span></span>
Fricative	<span><span><span><span></span></span><u>ɸ</u></span></span>	<span><span><span><span></span></span><u>s</u></span></span>	
Approximant	<span><span><span><span></span></span><u>w</u></span></span>		

This small consonant inventory is typical of Lakes Plain languages.<sup>[5]</sup> The complete lack of nasals is also a feature of these languages.

There are however several notable allophonic variants:

- /d/ is realized as [d ~ l] word-initially, [r ~ l] between vowels or following another consonants, and as [d̪] syllable-finally.
- /k/ is realized as [g̊] syllable-finally. When followed by a vowel, the sequence /ik/ is realized as a syllabic fricative [ɣ̥]. The sequence /iko/ further varies with [u.o].
- [ɸ] is in free variation with a glottal fricative [h].
- /s/ is realized as [ʃ] following /k/.

Sikaritai	
<span></span> <div>Tori Aikwakai</div>	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	<i>Sikari</i> village in Rafaer District, Mamberamo Raya Regency, Papua
Native speakers	(800 cited 1993) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Lakes Plain <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Central<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Sikaritai</b></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tty
Glottolog	sika1263 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/sika1263</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

- /i/ before another vowel is realized as either a semivowel [j] or an affricate [dʒ] (the latter when following /k/ or when between two low vowels (/ɛ/ or /a/).

## Vowels

Sikaritai has six vowels.

	Front	Central	Back
High	<u>i</u>		<u>u</u>
Mid-high	<u>e</u>		
Mid	<u>ɛ</u>		<u>o</u>
Low		<u>a</u>	

Many other Lakes Plain languages have developed a series of extra high "fricativized" vowels from the loss of a final consonant.<sup>[5]</sup> In Sikaritai the final consonants have been retained; however, extra-high [i] and [u] appear as allophones of /i/ and /u/ before final /g/ and /d/. Martin postulates that Sikaritai is in the process of developing contrastive fricativized vowels as other Lakes Plain languages have done.

## Tone

The language has a two-height tone system with H and L tone. More than one tonal element can appear on a single syllable.

## Syllables

The syllable template is (C)(C)V(V)(C).

## References

1. Sikaritai (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tty/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
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3. Eberhard, David M.; Simons, Gary F.; Fennig, Charles D., eds. (2019). "Indonesia languages" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/country/ID/languages>). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (22nd ed.). Dallas: SIL International.
4. Martin, David (1991). "Sikaritai phonology". *Workpapers in Indonesian Languages and Cultures*. **9**: 91–120.
5. Clouse, Duane (1997). "Toward a reconstruction and reclassification of the Lakes Plain languages of Irian Jaya". *Papers in Papuan Linguistics*. **3**: 133–236.

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